

REMARKS

In response to the final Official Action of December 11, 2007, claims 1, 7, and 17 have been amended in a manner which is believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention in view of the cited art. No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

At section 2, claims 1, 6-9, and 16¹ are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Oiwa, et al., JP 11355432 (hereinafter Oiwa), in view of US patent 4,945,556, Namekawa.

It is asserted that Oiwa discloses changing the input states of an electronic device, including a locked state and an unlocked state enterable by their respective locking and unlocking inputs, as well as an intermediate unlocking (actually a temporal state with no limitation on user input) state that contains a different input from the unlocking input. The Office admits that Oiwa fails to disclose that the intermediate unlocked state provides for a limited operational use of said input portion. The Office asserts that Namekawa discloses a first lock code and a second lock code, wherein the mobile system can be used with some limitation when the device is in the second lock code. The Office then asserts that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the invention disclosed in Namekawa with Oiwa. For the reasons set forth below, applicant respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention is distinguished over this combination of Oiwa and Namekawa.

The Claimed Invention

As made clear in the PCT published application, the present invention is particularly useful with cover-less mobile electronic devices by providing the user with the capability of using the device for a limited purpose (such as to read a short message service (SMS) message), where after completing such a limited purpose, it is desired that the device enter into a locked state so as to prevent accidental key

¹ Although claim 17 is not specifically rejected, it is rejected in the Response to Arguments section and therefore is considered as being rejected in section 2.

presses of the keypad. (PCT published application page 1, line 32 through page 2, line 12).

The solution is presented in distinction from prior art techniques, such as using a timer, where after a certain timeout period the mobile device enters a locked state. Such a prior art solution still allows for random key presses prior to the timeout period expiring.

The solution of the present invention is to provide an intermediate unlocked state of the electronic device in which a limited operational use of the input portion of the device is possible. The detection of the termination of a user operation in this intermediate unlocked state includes detecting the completion of at least one task represented by input operations greater than one. This feature of the present invention is disclosed in the application as filed, including Figure 3B and the accompanying description at page 12, line 12 through page 13, line 1. It also is supported by Figure 4 and the accompanying description at page 13, lines 3-35.

An important feature of the present invention is that after completion of at least one task, the device automatically enters into the locked state without the need for entering a locked code. The Office asserts that the feature of Namekawa of having a second unlocked state can be combined with the feature of Oiwa of entering into a temporal unlocked state in which unlimited use of the device is allowed. The combination of Oiwa and Namekawa does not provide a mechanism for detecting termination of a user operation in the intermediate unlocked state by other than entry of the locking input associated with entering the locked state. It also does not suggest the feature recited in amended claim 1 of detecting termination of a user input in said intermediate locked state, including the completion of at least one task by input operations greater than one.

Thus, although Oiwa is presented as showing in paragraph [0019] that the temporal unlocked state can be exited by an "end" key, such an "end key" is effectively the entering of a locking input to cause the device to enter the locked state. There is no disclosure in Oiwa or Namekawa of detecting the termination of a user operation in said intermediate unlocked state, the user operation being other than said locking

input, and including the completion of at least one task by input operations greater than one.

Consequently, the feature of the present invention of allowing a user of a device, when the device is in the intermediate unlocked state, to perform a task comprising input operations greater than one and when such a task is detected as being completed entering the locked state in response to said detection, is not suggested by Oiwa in combination with Namekawa.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, is distinguished over the cited art.

Independent mobile electronic device claims 7 and 17 have been amended in a manner similar to claim 1 and, for similar reasons, are believed to be distinguished over the cited art.

Since each of the independent claims is believed to be distinguished over the cited art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6, 8, 9, and 16 are further distinguished over the cited art at least in view of such dependency.

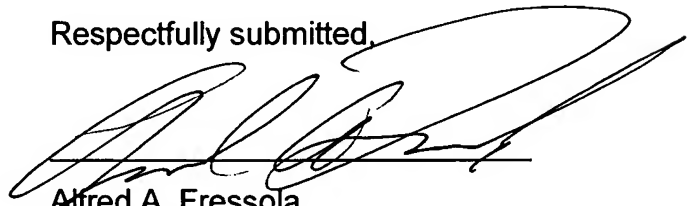
It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account 23-0442 any fee deficiency required to submit this paper.

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Respectfully submitted,



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